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Agenda item 84 (f)

Macroeconomic policy questions: preparations for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Walid A. **Al-Hadid** (Jordan)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 84 (f) (see A/57/529, para. 2). Action on sub-item (f) was taken at the 11th and 38th meetings, on 16 October and on 20 November 2002. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/57/SR.11 and 38).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/57/L.2 and A/C.2/57/L.32

2. At the 11th meeting, on 16 October, the representative of Venezuela, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Armenia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/57/L.2), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
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> "*Recalling* the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which recognizes the special needs and problems of landlocked developing countries and urges both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to this group of countries to meet their special development needs and to help them overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport system,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in seven parts, under the symbol A/57/529 and Add.1-6.

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"*Recalling also* its resolution 56/180 of 21 December 2001, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene an International Ministerial Meeting of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation in 2003,

"*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General entitled 'Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: preparatory process for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation',

"1. *Welcomes and accepts* the generous offer of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan to host the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation;

"2. *Decides* that the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation should be convened at Almaty, on 28 and 29 August 2003;

"3. *Decides also* that the open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the International Ministerial Conference will hold two sessions, that the sixth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 2003, will serve as the first session and will address both substantive and organizational matters, including those relating to the election of bureau and format of the conference, and that the Senior Officials Meeting, to be held at Almaty from 25 to 27 August 2003, will serve as the second session;

"4. *Decides further* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee should have a bureau consisting of ten representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

"5. *Designates* the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the Conference;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in close cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank, to organize all sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee;

"7. *Requests also* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in close cooperation with the regional commissions, to organize intergovernmental regional and subregional meetings, where applicable, and decides that these regional and subregional meetings should finalize their work at the latest by April 2003;

"8. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make the necessary arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the meaningful participation of civil society, including the private

sector, in the preparatory process and the Conference itself in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

"9. *Calls upon* all organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and regional commissions as well as the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, to provide all necessary substantive and technical support to the preparatory process and organization of the International Ministerial Conference;

"10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report, prepared in consultation with relevant regional and international organizations, for the consideration of the preparatory committee, no later than 15 May 2003;

"11. *Requests also* the Secretary-General to continue to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the preparations for the International Ministerial Conference and in particular the participation of representatives of landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and the least developed countries in the intergovernmental preparatory meetings and in the Conference;

"12. *Requests further* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to launch a public information campaign to raise public awareness of the objectives and significance of the International Ministerial Conference;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference."

3. At the 38th meeting, on 20 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Abdellah Benmellouk (Morocco), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation" (A/C.2/57/L.32), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.2.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.32 (see para. 7).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and the Lao People's Democratic Republic (on behalf of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries) (see A/C.2/57/SR.38).

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.32, draft resolution A/C.2/57/L.2 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Preparations for the International Ministerial Conference on Transit Transport Cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] in which heads of State and Government recognized the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries, urged both bilateral and multilateral donors to increase financial and technical assistance to that group of countries in order to meet their particular development needs and to help them to overcome the impediments of geography by improving their transit transport systems, and resolved to create an environment, at the national and global level alike, conducive to development and to the elimination of poverty,

Recalling also its resolution 56/180 of 21 December 2001, in which it requested the Secretary-General, within the existing resources of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and voluntary contributions, to convene in 2003 an international ministerial meeting of landlocked and transit developing countries and donor countries and international financial and development institutions on transit transport cooperation,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: preparatory process for the International Ministerial Meeting on Transit Transport Cooperation",[2]

1. *Welcomes and accepts* the generous offer of the Government of Kazakhstan to host the international meeting referred to in resolution 56/180, which is henceforth to be known as the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation;

2. *Decides* that the International Ministerial Conference should be convened at Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003;

3. *Decides also* that the open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Conference will hold two sessions, that the sixth Meeting of Governmental Experts from Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Representatives of Donor Countries and Financial and Development Institutions, to be held in New York from 23 to 27 June 2003, will serve as the first session and will address both substantive and organizational matters, including those relating to the election of the bureau and the format of the Conference, and that the Meeting of Senior Officials, to be held at Almaty from 25 to 27 August 2003, will serve as the second session;

4. *Decides further* that the intergovernmental preparatory committee shall have a bureau consisting of ten representatives of Member States elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation;

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] A/57/340.

5. *Designates* the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States as the Secretary-General of the Conference;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in close cooperation with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Bank, to organize all the sessions of the intergovernmental preparatory committee;

7. *Requests also* the Secretary-General of the Conference, in close cooperation with the regional commissions, to organize intergovernmental regional and subregional meetings, where applicable, and decides that these regional and subregional meetings should finalize their work at the latest by April 2003 in order to make a substantive contribution to the work of the intergovernmental preparatory committee;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General of the Conference to make the necessary arrangements, on the basis of consultations with Member States, to facilitate the meaningful participation of civil society, including the private sector, in the preparatory process and in the Conference itself in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

9. *Invites* the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the regional commissions, the international financial institutions, in particular the World Bank, and other relevant regional and international organizations and the international community to provide the necessary substantive, financial and technical support to the preparatory process and organization of the Conference and to participate actively therein;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations to submit a report on the outcomes of the regional and subregional meetings, prepared in consultation with relevant regional and international organizations, for the consideration of the preparatory committee, no later than 15 May 2003;

11. *Requests also* the Secretary-General to continue to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the preparations for the Conference and, in particular the participation of representatives of landlocked developing countries, transit developing countries and the least developed countries in the intergovernmental preparatory meetings and in the Conference itself;

12. *Requests further* the Secretary-General, with the assistance of concerned organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to launch a public information campaign, within the existing resources of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 and with voluntary contributions, to raise public awareness of the objectives and significance of the Conference;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session on the outcome of the Conference.